

Appendix A: Suggested Deadlines to Qualify Initiatives

The following suggested deadlines are not substitutes for California election laws, regulations, or policy. Other factors, such as amending the initiative measure before circulation or the length of time for circulation, will affect the time it takes to complete the process.

February 7, 2012, Presidential Primary Election Qualifying Using the Random Sample Method

If the raw count total equals 100% or more of the total number of signatures needed to qualify the initiative measure, the elections official is required to verify 500 signatures or 3% of the number of signatures filed, whichever is greater. Counties receiving less than 500 petition signatures are required to verify all the signatures filed in their office. In order to qualify by random sample, there must be 110% of the required number of valid signatures (Elections Code section 9030).

December 31, 2010 - Suggested last day for proponent(s) to submit proposed measure to the Attorney General and request title and summary.

February 22, 2011 - Attorney General prepares and issues title and summary and proponent(s) may begin circulation of the petition (includes time allotted for fiscal analysis).

July 22, 2011 - Last day for proponent(s) to file the petition with county elections officials.

August 3, 2011 - Last day for county elections officials to complete raw count totals and certify raw numbers to the Secretary of State.

August 12, 2011 - Last day for Secretary of State to receive raw count total from each county elections official, determine whether initiative petitions meet the minimum signature requirement, generate random sample, and notify each county elections official of results.

September 27, 2011 - Last day for county elections officials to verify and certify results of the random sampling of signatures to the Secretary of State.

September 29, 2011 - Last day for Secretary of State to determine whether initiative qualifies for the ballot or 100% signature verification is necessary. At this point, if a 100% signature verification is necessary, it would not qualify for the February 7, 2012, Presidential Primary Election ballot. (E-131)

February 7, 2012, Presidential Primary Election Qualifying Using the Full Check Method

If the result of the random sample indicates that the number of valid signatures represents between 95% and 110% of the required number of signatures to qualify the initiative measure for the ballot, the Secretary of State directs the county elections officials to verify every signature on the petition. This process is referred to as a full check. Within 30 working days of receipt of this notification, the county elections officials determine the total number of qualified signatures and transmits this information to the Secretary of State (Elections Code section 9031).

November 10, 2010 - Suggested last day for proponent(s) to submit proposed measure to the Attorney General and request title and summary.

January 4, 2011 - Attorney General prepares and issues title and summary and proponent(s) may begin circulation of the petition (includes time allotted for fiscal analysis).

June 3, 2011 - Last day for proponent(s) to file the petition with county elections officials.

June 15, 2011 - Last day for county elections officials to complete raw count totals and certify raw numbers to the Secretary of State.

June 20, 2011 - Last day for Secretary of State to receive raw count total from each county elections official, determine whether initiative petitions meet the minimum signature requirement, generate random sample, and notify each county elections official of results.

August 2, 2011 - Last day for county elections officials to verify and certify results of the random sampling of signatures to the Secretary of State.

August 12, 2011 - Last day for Secretary of State to determine whether initiative petition qualifies for the ballot or 100% signature verification is necessary.

September 27, 2011 - Last day for county elections officials to certify to the Secretary of State results of the 100% signature check.

September 29, 2011 - Last day for the Secretary of State to determine whether the initiative measure qualifies for the ballot. (E-131)

June 5, 2012, Statewide Direct Primary Election Qualifying Using the Random Sample Method

If the raw count total equals 100% or more of the total number of signatures needed to qualify the initiative measure, the elections official is required to verify 500 signatures or 3% of the number of signatures filed, whichever is greater. Counties receiving less than 500 petition signatures are required to verify all the signatures filed in their office. In order to qualify by random sample, there must be 110% of the required number of valid signatures (Elections Code section 9030).

May 4, 2011 - Suggested last day for proponent(s) to submit proposed measure to the Attorney General and request title and summary.

June 24, 2011 - Attorney General prepares and issues title and summary and proponent(s) may begin circulation of the petition (includes time allotted for fiscal analysis).

November 21, 2011 - Last day for proponent(s) to file the petition with county elections officials.

December 5, 2011 - Last day for county elections officials to complete raw count totals and certify raw numbers to the Secretary of State.

December 8, 2011 - Last day for Secretary of State to receive raw count total from each county elections official, determine whether initiative petitions meet the minimum signature requirement, generate random sample, and notify each county elections official of results.

January 24, 2012 - Last day for county elections officials to verify and certify results of the random sampling of signatures to the Secretary of State.

January 26, 2012 - Last day for Secretary of State to determine whether initiative qualifies for the ballot or 100% signature verification is necessary. At this point, if a 100% signature verification is necessary, it would not qualify for the June 5, 2012, Statewide Direct Primary Election ballot. (E-131)

June 5, 2012, Statewide Direct Primary Election Qualifying Using the Full Check Method

If the result of the random sample indicates that the number of valid signatures represents between 95% and 110% of the required number of signatures to qualify the initiative measure for the ballot, the Secretary of State directs the county elections officials to verify every signature on the petition. This process is referred to as a full check. Within 30 working days of receipt of this notification, the county elections officials determine the total number of qualified signatures and transmits this information to the Secretary of State (Elections Code section 9031).

March 4, 2011 - Suggested last day for proponent(s) to submit proposed measure to the Attorney General and request title and summary.

April 26, 2011 - Attorney General prepares and issues title and summary and proponent(s) may begin circulation of the petition (includes time allotted for fiscal analysis).

September 23, 2011 - Last day for proponent(s) to file the petition with county elections officials.

October 5, 2011 - Last day for county elections officials to complete raw count totals and certify raw numbers to the Secretary of State.

October 14, 2011 - Last day for Secretary of State to receive raw count total from each county elections official, determine whether initiative petitions meet the minimum signature requirement, generate random sample, and notify each county elections official of results.

November 30, 2011 - Last day for county elections officials to verify and certify results of the random sampling of signatures to the Secretary of State.

December 7, 2011 - Last day for Secretary of State to determine whether initiative petition qualifies for the ballot or 100% signature verification is necessary.

January 23, 2012 - Last day for county elections officials to certify to the Secretary of State results of the 100% signature check.

January 26, 2012 - Last day for the Secretary of State to determine whether the initiative measure qualifies for the ballot. (E-131)

November 6, 2012, General Election Qualifying Using the Random Sample Method

If the raw count total equals 100% or more of the total number of signatures needed to qualify the initiative measure, the elections official is required to verify 500 signatures or 3% of the number of signatures filed, whichever is greater. Counties receiving less than 500 petition signatures are required to verify all the signatures filed in their office. In order to qualify by random sample, there must be 110% of the required number of valid signatures (Elections Code section 9030).

September 30, 2011 - Suggested last day for proponent(s) to submit proposed measure to the Attorney General and request title and summary.

November 22, 2011 - Attorney General prepares and issues title and summary and proponent(s) may begin circulation of the petition (includes time allotted for fiscal analysis).

April 20, 2012 - Last day for proponent(s) to file the petition with county elections officials.

May 2, 2012 - Last day for county elections officials to complete raw count totals and certify raw numbers to the Secretary of State.

May 11, 2012 - Last day for Secretary of State to receive raw count total from each county elections official, determine whether initiative petitions meet the minimum signature requirement, generate random sample, and notify each county elections official of results.

June 25, 2012 - Last day for county elections officials to verify and certify results of the random sampling of signatures to the Secretary of State.

June 28, 2012 - Last day for Secretary of State to determine whether the initiative measure qualifies for the ballot or 100% signature verification is necessary. At this point, if a 100% signature verification is necessary, it would not qualify for the November 6, 2012, General Election ballot. (E-131)

November 6, 2012, General Election Qualifying Using the Full Check Method

If the result of the random sample indicates that the number of valid signatures represents between 95% and 110% of the required number of signatures to qualify the initiative measure for the ballot, the Secretary of State directs the county elections officials to verify every signature on the petition. This process is referred to as a full check. Within 30 working days of receipt of this notification, the county elections officials determine the total number of qualified signatures and transmits this information to the Secretary of State (Elections Code section 9031).

August 11, 2011 - Suggested last day for proponent(s) to submit proposed measure to the Attorney General and request title and summary.

October 4, 2011 - Attorney General prepares and issues title and summary and proponent(s) may begin circulation of the petition (includes time allotted for fiscal analysis).

March 2, 2012 - Last day for proponent(s) to file the petition with county elections officials.

March 14, 2012 - Last day for county elections officials to complete raw count totals and certify raw numbers to the Secretary of State.

March 23, 2012 - Last day for Secretary of State to receive raw count total from each county elections official, determine whether initiative petitions meet the minimum signature requirement, generate random sample, and notify each county elections official of results.

May 4, 2012 - Last day for county elections officials to verify and certify results of the random sampling of signatures to the Secretary of State.

May 14, 2012 - Last day for Secretary of State to determine whether the initiative petition qualifies for the ballot or 100% signature verification is necessary.

June 26, 2012 - Last day for county elections officials to certify to the Secretary of State results of the 100% signature check.

June 28, 2012 - Last day for the Secretary of State to determine whether initiative measure qualifies for the ballot. (E-131)